of powerloom products and coir geotextiles from the MEP regime. It has also recommended removal of embellishments from the calculations of MEP, on an experimental basis for one year and to review it thereafter.

Private participation in Satellite Launching

1676. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a plan to launch a private satellite in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for private participation in this area;

(c) what would be Government's role in controlling and using the services generated by it; and

(d) how many such proposals are pending with Government for private parties for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the approved policy framework on Satellite Communication allows Indian Private Parties to establish commercial communication satellites. Establishment of such private satellite system will be authorised by the Government following certain well defined and transparent norms.

(c) The regulation of services offered by private satellite networks will be carried out by the concerned Government departments mandated for those services.

(d) At present no proposal is pending.

Ministerial conference on space applications

1677. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India hosted the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and Pacific recently in New Delhi;